

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action dated September 9, 2004, restriction was required among the claims as follows:

Group I, claims 1-13, which the Examiner contends are drawn to a method of stripping an optical fiber, classified in class 385, subclass 147; and

Group II, claims 18-55, which the Examiner contends are drawn to a machine for stripping an optical fiber, classified in class 385, subclass 134.

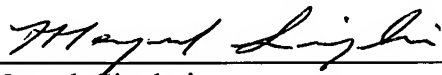
Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I corresponding to claims 1-13, for further prosecution in the present application.

Applicants reserve their right to file one or more divisional applications, if necessary, so as to proceed with the examination of any nonelected claims.

Early and favorable examination on the merits of all of the claimed subject matter, special status, and a next action allowance or an interview prior to any Office Action (so any issues may be rapidly resolved), are all earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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